

Applicant: Zheng Fang
Application No.: 09/834,861

REMARKS

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6, 8-10, 12, 14-16, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,472,679 (La Porta et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0141386 (Minert et al.). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The claimed invention according to claims 1 and 14 pertains to consumer premises equipment (CPE) that provides at least two telephone jacks that can access multiple services from a plurality service providers, whereby each telephone accesses a different service provider.

LaPorta discloses a network that allows a subscriber to have more options for selecting signaling providers independently of a Local Exchange Provider (LEC), cable service provider, or cellular communications provider. A signaling service provider (SSP) node 121 is described as being composed of a plurality of interconnected nodes within signaling provider network 120, which can be arranged to switch signaling information according to ISDN protocol. (col. 3, lines 39-60). A subscriber's computer system database 123 with mass storage contains addresses of particular service providers selected by each subscriber. It is the SSP which allows the subscriber to select from among a plurality of service providers. However, the SSP and database are network entities, not at all related to consumer premises equipment (CPE).

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Another major difference between the claimed invention and LaPorta is that the subscriber 201 of LaPorta cannot receive multiple services at a plurality of telephone terminals at the same time. Instead, one telephone, one cable TV and one multimedia service is selected for the entire subscriber location by the subscriber either on a subscription basis or a call-by-call basis, and stored in the database 123. The subscriber 201 (202) consists of the block of terminal devices, such as telephones or personal computers, on the consumer premises. Once a telephone service has been selected for the subscriber 201, all the telephones of subscriber 201 will receive telephone service from that single provider (See FIG. 3). Subscriber 202 represents a separate consumer premises, with its own selections for telephone, cable TV and multimedia service providers.

Contrast this with claims 1 and 14, as illustrated in FIG. 3, where a plurality of telephones 107 at a common consumer premises are routed to various service providers simultaneously through cable modem cable modem 350. The use of multiple media terminal adapters (MTAs) 136, 138 provide for interaction of the CPE to different call agents 109, 108 using multiple call control languages (see page 11, lines 22-23).

A third distinction between LaPorta and claims 1 and 14, is that LaPorta does not disclose at least two end devices engaged in separate call sessions, concurrently, while using different call control languages.

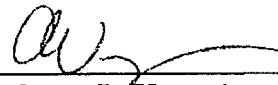
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In summary, LaPorta discloses a network that embodies the typical systems plagued by the disadvantages described in the Background section of the Applicant's specification.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the presently claimed invention is patentable over the prior art. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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